

Cattle Pound
East Jefferson, Maine
vicinity

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah T. Fubly, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

"CATTLE POUND"

East Jefferson, Lincoln County, Maine

Owner

Town of Jefferson

Date of Erection

1829

Builder

Silas Noyes

Present Condition

As the pound is built entirely of stone, there is little to deteriorate. Hence, it appears easy to determine how it was originally.

Description

A circular enclosure about forty feet in diameter, built entirely of field stone with an entrance gate five feet wide surmounted by a massive stone lintel. The walls of the pound are six feet high, five feet thick at the base. The inside of the wall is nearly vertical but the outside batters so that the thickness of the wall at the top is about three feet. This enclosure is built on land now wooded. There is no evidence of any shelter.

Other Existing Records

Brief Article called "Jefferson Pound" published in the Portland Press Herald, October 4, 1936.

Additional Data

Cattle pounds similar to this one but commonly built of wood were owned by all the towns in early times. The pounds were enclosures in which cattle or other domestic animals which had strayed, trespassed, or had been seized by legal process, were kept.

The pound keeper was obliged to receive everything offered for his custody but was not answerable for any stock illegally impounded.

Impounders were obliged to supply feed and water but could charge the owners of animals for feed. In case animals were not fed for twelve hours, any person could feed them and collect from the owner.

The pound keeper was one of the officials of the town elected at town meetings.

The builder of this pound, Silas Noyes, is said to have received twenty-eight dollars for his work,- the setting of over one hundred ninety tons of rock at about fourteen cents a ton.

The pound is located on the road between Jefferson and Waldoboro on Route #220.

Eleanor E. Jannell

Approved:

Samuel J. Tubby
May 19, 1937

TTW 6/14/37